

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

THOMAS E. ROSSER AND  
CHARLES E. KIRSCH, EXECUTORS  
OF THE ESTATE OF  
J. CHESTER CROTHERS, DECEASED

Claim No. CU - 2762

Decision No. CU - 4372

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

PROPOSED DECISION

J. CHESTER CROTHERS, who owned a participation interest in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust, asserted a claim under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, against the Government of Cuba because of its nationalization of said Trust. Having died on October 12, 1967, THOMAS E. ROSSER AND CHARLES E. KIRSCH, EXECUTORS OF THE ESTATE OF J. CHESTER CROTHERS, DECEASED, are substituted as claimants herein.

In our decision entitled the Claim of Felix Heyman (Claim No. CU-0412 which we incorporate herein by reference), we held that the properties owned or controlled by the Trust were nationalized or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba on November 23, 1959, and that this type of claim is compensable to an American national under the facts and conditions set forth therein. We need not again detail here the reasons or the method used in determining the value per unit of \$0.11971.

On the basis of evidence in the record in the instant case, the Commission finds that the decedent came within the terms of the Heyman decision; that he was an American national at the requisite times; that he had been the owner of 1200 units of participation in the Cuban Venezuelan Oil Voting Trust since prior to November 23, 1959; and that he suffered a loss in the amount of \$143.65 within the meaning of Title V of the Act.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

Section 507 of the Act provides, as to assignment of claims, that

(b) The amount determined to be due on any claim of an assignee who acquires the same by purchase shall not exceed (or, in the case of any such acquisition subsequent to the date of the determination, shall not be deemed to have exceeded) the amount of the actual consideration paid by such assignee, or in case of successive assignments of a claim by any assignee.

Claim is also made for an additional 200 units which the decedent apparently owned at least on July 2, 1965, represented by a certificate issued to another on January 12, 1960.

Under the provisions of Section 504(a) of the Act, a claimant is required to establish that the claim for any loss has been continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date of filing with the Commission. The loss occurred on November 23, 1959. In similar cases claimants have been unable to obtain information or evidence to establish the nationality of the owner of the securities on the date of loss, and to establish continuous United States ownership of the securities until the date on which claimant acquired them.

Evidence of record before the Commission discloses that securities of the type subject of this claim were almost entirely owned and traded by persons or firms having addresses in the United States. The Commission has considered whether an inference may be justified that the claimed securities were continuously owned by a national or nationals of the United States from the date of loss to the date on which purchased by the claimant, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, has concluded that the securities were continuously so owned. (See Claim of the Executors of the Estate of Julius S. Wikler, Deceased, Claim No. CU-2571).

The Commission finds however that the record does not reflect when the decedent acquired the last 200 units nor the price paid therefor. Accordingly,

the Commission is precluded from making a favorable determination of this part of the claim and it is hereby denied.

Further, the Commission finds that the amount of loss sustained shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from November 23, 1959, the date of loss, to the date on which provisions are made for the settlement thereof. (See Heyman, supra.)

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

The Commission certifies that THOMAS E. ROSSER AND CHARLES E. KIRSCH, EXECUTORS OF THE ESTATE OF J. CHESTER CROTHERS, DECEASED, succeeded to a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of One Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$143.65) with interest at 6% per annum from November 23, 1959 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,  
and entered as the Proposed  
Decision of the Commission

7 JAN 1970

*Theodore Jaffe*

Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

*Sidney Freidberg*

Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

NOTICE TO TREASURY: The above-referenced securities may not have been submitted to the Commission or if submitted, may have been returned; accordingly, no payment should be made until claimants establish retention of the securities for the loss here certified.

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims. Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §591.3(a) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)